



NEWS FROM THE HAWAII STATE NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION AND THE HONOLULU COIN CLUB

VOL. 13 NO. 38

SEPTEMBER 22, 1993



NUMISMATIC MARATHON II

BY F. LOO

This years marathon lasted twelve days, from May 25th thru June 5, 1993. I spent four days at each of three numismatically powerful events, namely 1) a Bowers and Merena (B&M) auction, 2) Superior Galleries auction, and 3) the Long Beach show. Those twelve days were like numismatic heaven, viewing and playing with magnificent and beautiful rare coins, medals, and currency from the U.S.A., Hawaii, and the whole world! One highlight was the multimillion dollar King of Siam set, including the 1804 dollar, which was seen at Long Beach.

Day 1 - Tuesday - Arrived in Los Angeles at 6:00 A.M. Went to Superior Galleries to view lots for their first session on Sunday. Saw a rare double-die variety in a lot which had a group of coins, and in which no mention was made of this variety in the lot description. Hmmm, did anyone else see this?

Day 2 - Wednesday - Got a ride from Doug Bird (a dealer in early US copper), who drove me ten miles from the Beverly Hills Superior Galleries to the LA Marriot Hotel, where the B & M auction was held. After checking into a room, I went to the lot viewing room, where all fifty viewing seats were occupied. I had to wait over thirty minutes before I could bribe my way onto a seat by giving the guard some macadamia nut candy.

Day 3 - Thursday - After viewing coins for three days, my eyes became trained to recognize traps among the slabbed coins

which were being auctioned. The worst trap was artificial toning which was applied to hide defects or repairs. Another trap was unattractive weakly struck coins which were graded MS-64 or better. I also learned about consortium bidding. At the first auction session, I got an 1836 Gobrecht \$1 and early \$5 gold dated 1802/1, 1804/18, and 1805. The auction was still in progress when I left at 1:00 AM.

Day 4 - Friday - Today's lessons included learning about the strategy of having two partners bid on the same coin. My suspicions regarding estate consignments and professional consignment were also verified. Nevertheless, during the third auction session, "rare-dated" gold was hot! In order not to get burned, I ended up buying commemoratives, such as the Isabella 25 cents, 2*4 Missouri, and a gem Lexington with original box of issue. Again, I left the auction at 1:00 AM.

Day 5 - Saturday - When lot viewing opened at 9:00 AM, I was there to look at lots for the 10:00 AM session #4. I struggled to buy large U.S. currency. Fortunately, the memory of Charles Matsuda's \$1 Educational Note spurred me to pay high to get a few nice notes such as a Grant \$5 with silver dollar reverse and a few Indian Chief \$5's. Instead of attending the 12:30 PM session #5, I left a few "mail bids" and then rented a car to drive to the nearby Golden State Coin show. At this show, I saw Mark Yee and a few dealers who attend our HSNA November show. Had a nice chat with Helen Carmody and wished her success in her ANA governor candidacy.

After the show, I drove to the same T.J.'s restaurant as last year to enjoy a leisure dinner since there was no auction

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session that night. The restaurant seated me at the exact same location as last year. And again Q. David Bowers walked in with his entourage, stopped by my table, chatted briefly and went to his table. Yep, the waiter again told me that Mr. Bowers picked up the tab for my dinner. When I went over to thank him, he threatened to do it again in 1994, if we all repeat the same routine.

Days 6,7, and 8 - Sun, Mon, and Tuesday - The Superior auction had a total of six sessions and approximately 3,500 lots, many of which had multiple items. I was probably able to view only about half of the lots, before my eyes were beginning to see double and triple images.

The double-die variety I saw on Day 1 was not because of tired eyes. The lot in which that double-die was in would have been worth \$700-\$800, as described. I thought I could get it for \$1,000. When that lot came up, it started at \$1,100 with five eager bidders for it. I guess everyone else must have seen that variety because that lot finally sold for \$1,900.

In the fifth session a nice complete set of Lahainaluna Seminary scripts was sold to a phone bidder. One foreign coin which had an estimated value \$2,500 sold for \$34,000 after heated bidding. I wouldn't be surprised if such a coin is in Hawaii. Included among my purchases were a proof 1888 \$3, a proof 1880 \$5, and coins from China, Japan, Korea, Philippines, Mexico, Hong Kong, and Italy. Finally, I did buy a "full head" Standing Liberty quarter, but it was met with disapproval by Mr. "K" as not meeting his standards. That's OK!

The low point of this year's trip was when I had dinner in the Hotel's (no name, to protect the guilty) dining room, where I ordered veal oscar, since it was one of the day's specials. The dish was prepared by using artificial crab!!! If you know how veal oscar is prepared, then you can commiserate with me.

Days 9 to 12 - Wed. thru Saturday - Paid my Superior auction bill and then drove to the big Long Beach show. My first purchase was for a complete set of the

1933 Honolulu Clearing House certificates. At last year's B & M auction, I let a complete set go to a mail bidder. After returning to Hawaii, I learned how rare the complete set is. Yes, I am a slow learner.

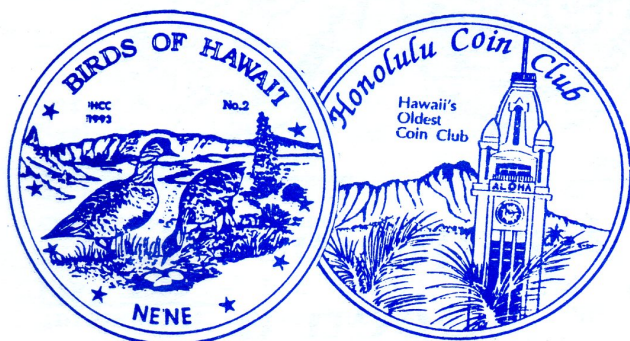
The best part of this Long Beach show was the education I acquired. First, I had a nice long dinner with a former grader from one of the national grading services. If you want to learn about what we talked about, see me at a coin club meeting. The other part of my education related to currency, where I learned about 1) how paper money is cleaned; 2) how many notes were "starched" in the early 1980's; 3) how repairs are made or hidden using liquid paper; and 4) that the WWI ship on a 1918 FRB \$2 note is referred to as a "dreadnought." Besides an education in currency, I was able to acquire a few currency errors, such as mismatched and missing serial numbers. Thanks to Mr. W. K. Young who would often share his currency finds with me, I had some prior knowledge about paper money.

Actually, the most joyful part of this year's marathon was the meeting with many old friends and acquiring new friends. Most numismatic friends are MS-70! Add-in the great education received - valueless to a thief, priceless to me. That's what numismatics is all about. Come to a Honolulu Coin Club meeting if you want to part of all this.



Nene the Second Series of Birds of Hawaii Medal

BY IRVING KAM

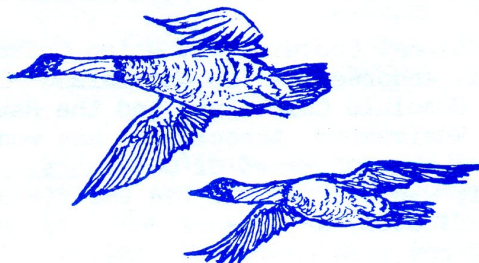


The Honolulu Coin Club proudly announces the release of it's latest commemorative medal with the issuance of a second installment to the "Birds of Hawaii" series, designed by club treasurer Charlie Matsuda. The obverse features the Nene (*Branta Sandvicensis*), or Hawaiian goose, while the reverse is occupied by the H.C.C. logo.

Truly a success story, the species have survived near extinction and only in times have they neared comfortable numbers. They differ from other true geese in that the Nene do not migrate as other geese do. They live in a tropical environment rather than a northern temperate zone or subarctic, and while other geese are fond of water, the Nene reside in the rugged terrain of old dry lava flows. This is especially evident by the seemingly unsubstantial webbing displayed on it's feet which simply reflect the bird's nonaquatic habitat.

Long designated as the State Bird of Hawaii, a pair of endemic Nenes are depicted tending to it's freshly laid clutch of eggs. In the background, an endangered Silver Sword plant thrives and all are enclosed beneath the rim of an extinct volcano. The five pointed stars represent the eight major islands of the Hawaiian group and the medals are dated

1993, the year of issue. Mintage is limited to two hundred twenty five, .999 silver and bronze sets and will be available at the annual H.C.C. Statehood Day Coin Show in August. Additional information can be obtained by writing the Honolulu Coin Club, P.O. Box 6063, Honolulu, Hawaii 96818. Aloha! pau



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HONOLULU COIN CLUB

The Honolulu Coin Club meets every second, and fourth Wednesday of each month at Susannah Westley Community Center at 1117 Kaili Street, 7:30 p.m. Gregory Hunt, president.

Congratulation!

Helen Carmody Wins Seat on ANA Board

Our Regional Coordinator, Helen Carmody, who was endorsed by the Big Island Coin Club, Honolulu Coin Club, and the Hawaii State Numismatic Association has won a seat on the ANA Board of Governors. She not only was elected but led the field of all candidates, an unusual accomplishment for a first time candidate. Helen called both the BICC and HCC to inform us of her victory and to pass on to all the members, her appreciation for our support and donations. We wish to thank all the ANA members who voted and supported her - Mahalo! Thank You!

Helen Carmody will be installed on July 31, 1993 at the 102nd anniversary convention in Baltimore, Maryland. She is one of three new governors. The others are Kenneth L. Hallenbeck and David L. Lisot. The new president of ANA is David L. Ganz and vice president is Kenneth E. Bressett.



25th Anniversary Wood

**BY ALTON CHOW
BICC/HCC Member**

Wooden nickels have been made by many businesses as a means of advertising. We decided to have one made to commemorate 25 years of handling oriental and local food.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of our family business known as Milton's Enterprises. It started in August, 1968 in Hilo, where we handled one item. Later, more items were added and our customers were interested in different kinds of food products. Various oriental and local foods are now distributed throughout the Big Island.

The family business is operated by Milton, Eloise, and Alton and a German Shepherd guard dog, Smokey.

The wooden nickel has the business logo on the obverse, and the Indian & Buffalo on the reverse. It is printed in a black color.



Happiness is been a Jr. Member

**BY CAREY IZUO
HCC Jr Member**

I attend the Juniors coin club of Honolulu Coin Club. We meet every second and fourth Wednesday of each month. While the adults conduct their meeting, we meet separately. We are expected to do our homework assignments which we have two to three weeks to complete. We are asked to write something about a specific coin, share what we know about the coins we collect or make displays for coin shows. By completing our assignments we are rewarded by receiving a coin from our advisors, Gary and Officer Jim. We talk about the coins we got and the coins we need. After our little meeting, we join the adults and participate in the auction and the door prize freebies. I can't wait for the next Wednesday meeting.

*Be a Junior
Member!!
Membership is Free for JR. at
HCC!*





NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE COIN CLUBS OF HAWAII

BIG ISLAND COIN CLUB

April 1993 - Walt Southward was appointed to head the nominating committee with Derrick Ah Sing and Don Nigro assisting. Members were given the opportunity to grade six "slabbed" Morgan Dollars based on a three-part grading program which was completed last month.

May 1993 - Don Nigro provided an interesting presentation on the "HiLo" tokens he uncovered. One theory - is that they are really not Hawaiian but used as a gambling token for the 'game "Hi-Lo." Congratulations to Hunter Bishop for joining the ANA.

June 1993 - Rick Howsley, past president is creating a catalog on milk covers made on the Big Island. He also talked about the new hobby craze saying, "It'll last, because they're part of an old island game and because it permits bonding between kids and their grandparents." Jim Moore, treasurer, reminded all that it is dues time again! Mail your check for \$9 to Big Island Coin Club, P.O. Box 971, Hilo, Hawaii 96721.

July 1993 - Byron Toma was installed as president of the BICC for the term of 1993-94. Also installed were Derrick Ah Sing-V.P., Walt Southward-corresponding secretary, Don Nigro-recording secretary, Jim Moore-treasurer, Rick Howsley-sergeant-at-arms and Hunter Bishop, Roger Chikuami, Alton Chow, and Kay Kozohara--directors. Mildred Murakami will serve on the board as immediate past president.

HONOLULU COIN CLUB

April 1993 - Several short talks "Show and Tell" were given by Francis Loo on shows he attended and Ralph Brown gave interesting information on "Buck" as to

how it got started. Aloha! to HCC member Edward Lee Craig from Baltimore, Maryland who took time from his trip to the island, to attend our club meeting. Welcome to new members Edmond Wong, Frederick Woodley Sr, and James Sattler. Reminder was made for our Saturday May 8th coin show at Susannah Wesley Community Center (also our meeting place-2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month).

May 1993 - Good turn out at our May coin show made it another successful show. We wish to thank our two exhibitors at the show - Crane Saito and W.K. Young. Our own HCC president, Greg Hunt, will be speaking at a class on "Milk Covers" at the KCC campus at Ft. Ruger on the 19th and 26th of June - All are welcome! Reminder, next meeting is 'Bingo' Night. An auction and door prizes followed with over 31 adults and 5 juniors members and guests present.

June 1993 - "Bingo"!!! was what was heard all evening with good door prizes given to winners. This was a break or free night for the club members and there was mixed reaction to having another. Guest speaker Dan Farek from Texas was our highlight for the 2nd meeting of the month. Mr. Farek made his vacation plan to be able to attend one of our meetings. He spoke on Hawaiian National Guard medals, showed slides and the actual medals. A great evening was had with cake and punch served to all. Over 40 members and guest were present. Thank you - Dan Farek

July 1993 - Election of officers was held and the followed were elected for the coming year 1993-94, Greg Hunt-president, Ron Vonwronski-vice president, Paul Luke-secretary, Charlie Matsuda-treasurer, Crane Saito-sergeant-at-arms, Francis Loo, WK Young, Kazuma Oyama, and Dennis Tomiyasu--directors. Preps were made for Statehood Coin Show-August 21st.





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